

Message Text

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10

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 IO-11 ACDA-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 (ISO) W

----- 025088

O R 250908Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9474

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBSSY BEIRUT

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 948

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG LEB

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN G-2 COMMANDER ON LEBANON CEASEFIRE

1. MAJOR GENERAL NASSAR, THE KNOWLEDGEABLE EGYPTIAN CHIEF OF MILITARY INTELLIGENCE, TOLD AMB LAST NIGHT THAT LEBANESE CEASEFIRE GENERALLY SEEMS TO BE HOLDING, ALTHOUGH ACCORDING TO EGYPTIAN REPORTS, SPORADIC SHOOTING CONTINUES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. HE THOUGHT THE SYRIANS HAD MADE A WERIOUS EFFORT TO ACHIEVE A CEASEFIRE, BUT ECHOED GENERAL EGYPTIAN LINE THAT HAD THEY WISHED, THEY COULD HAVE DONE SO LONG AGO.

2. NASSAR EXPRESSED CONCERN, HOWEVER, THAT THE CEASEFIRE MAY TURN OUT TO BE NO MORE THAN A "BREATHING SPACE" DURING WHICH BOTH SIDES WILL SIMPLY PREPARE FOR A NEW ROUND. IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT ALL FRIENDS OF LEBANON, ARAB AND WESTERN, MAKE IT CLEAR TO ALL PARTIES THAT THIS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO HAPPEN. SPECIFICALLY, THE CHRISTIANS MUST BE MADE TO UNDERSTAND THAT PARTITION IS NOT ACCEPTABLE AND WILL NOT BE SUPPORTED.

3. I TOLD NASSAR THAT WE HAD ALREADY

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MADE OUR POSITION AGAINST ANY PARTIION OF LEBANON CLEAR TO ALL

LEMENTS IN THE COUNTRY. NASSAR OPINED MANY OF THE CHRISTIAN
ELEMENTS WILL BE RELUCTANT TO ACCEPT THIS AND WILL CONTINUE
THEIR EFFORTS TO SOLICIT FOREIGN SUPPORT FOR PARTITION.
SHOULD THEY SECCEED IN DOING SO, OR EVEN BE SUSPECTED OF
SUCCEEDING, HE PREDICTED A NEW CIVIL WAR IS INEVITABLE.

4. NASSAR STATED GOE HAS PUBLICLY AND
PRIVATELY EMPHASIZED ITS STRONG OPPOSITION TO PARTITION AND
WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO.
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